

**OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**Holiday Inn Lansing South**  
**6820 South Cedar Street**  
**Lansing, Michigan**  
**February 11, 2004**

**Chairman Dick Ranney** called the meeting of the Off-Road Vehicle Trails Advisory Board to order at 6:40 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2004 in Lansing, Michigan.

**Members Present:**

Dick Ranney, Chair  
Marlia Dielman  
Glenn Moll  
Jason Dinsmore for John Ford  
Under Sheriff Billy E. Spencer for Sheriff Nelson J. Cannon, Vice-Chair

**Members Absent:**

Errol Lee

**Staff Present:**

Mindy Koch, Chief, FMFM, Lansing  
Jim Radabaugh, State Trails Coordinator, Lansing  
Steve Kubisiak, ORV Program Manager, Lansing  
Lieutenant Creig Grey, Law Enforcement, Lansing  
Lieutenant Walt Mikula, Law Enforcement, Roscommon  
Pete Lundborg, Silver Lake State Park  
Todd Neiss, FMFM, Cadillac  
Richard Kennedy, FMFM, Lansing

**Chairman Ranney** introduced and welcomed Marlia Dielman as a new member of the Off-Road Vehicle Trails Advisory Board representing ORV users and dealers. **Ms. Dielman** is the Administrative Director of the Michigan Motorcycle Dealers' Association in Lansing, Michigan.

**Minutes**

Acknowledged Minutes of the November 5, 2003 ORV Trails Advisory Board Meeting.

**Mr. Moll made a motion, supported by Under Sheriff Spencer, to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2003 Off-Road Vehicle Trails Advisory Board Meeting. Motion for adoption unanimously carried.**

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Forest, Mineral and Fire Management**

**Steve Kubisiak, FMFM, Lansing** reported on the status of the ORV plan update contract, motorized trail program position vacancies, legislation regarding ORV fund distribution and motorized trail signing issues. He answered questions. **Chairman Ranney** said that the development of consistent motorized trail signing standards is important and urged the Department to make this a priority. **Mr. Ranney** thanked Mr. Kubisiak.

## **Law Enforcement**

**Lieutenant Creig Grey, Law Enforcement Division (LED), Lansing** reported legislation has been introduced that would lower blood alcohol limits for snowmobile, ORV and watercraft operators making it consistent with recent changes in the motor vehicle code. He reported the DNR will use the same curriculum and administrative rules for the ORV safety training program this year. He is working with Grants, Contracts and Customer Systems to simplify the grant application process and expects to send out applications soon. Discussion ensued. **Mr. Ranney** thanked Lieutenant Grey.

**Lieutenant Walt Mikula, LED, Roscommon** distributed a handout summarizing statewide off-road vehicle arrest statistics for the 2002-2003 riding season. He summarized arrests by location and type of apprehension. He noted assigned ORV patrols are scheduled May 1 though September 30 and said trends suggest violations are increasing in the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula. He added that 89% of the youth checked in 2003 did not have a safety training certificate. Discussion ensued.

**Mr. Ranney** requested Lieutenant Grey provide a report on off-road vehicle related accidents and fatalities at the next ORV Trails Advisory Board meeting.

**Mr. Ranney** thanked Lieutenant Mikula.

## **USDA Forest Service**

**Rose Ingram, Huron-Manistee National Forest, Cadillac** reported the Forest Service has completed an environmental assessment of the Horseshoe-Holton Motorcycle trail. She noted a thirty day public comment period and said comments should be submitted to Leslie E. Russell, District Ranger, at the Baldwin White Cloud Ranger District. **Ms. Ingram** added the assessment will be posted on their website, and on the Cycle Conservation Clubs of Michigan's website.

**Ms. Ingram** announced the recent appointment of a national Off-Highway Vehicle Policy and Implementation Team. She noted the Forest Service Chief has identified unmanaged recreation as one of the key threats facing national forests and grass lands. She said the agency is moving toward a national system of designated routes for OHV activity. She noted a web site and encouraged interested individuals to visit the site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/>. Discussion ensued. **Mr. Ranney** thanked Ms. Ingram.

## **2004 Mission of the Off-Road Vehicle Trails Advisory Board**

**Chairman Ranney** recommended the 2004 Mission for the Off-Road Vehicle Trails Advisory Board focus on the following priorities:

- Education
- Guide Book
- Budget
- Signage
- Maintenance Review

Discussion ensued regarding the need to increase and improve ORV safety training opportunities; the need to improve distribution of printed and electronic media regarding ORV rules and regulations; the need to address legislation regarding the ORV budget; the need to address issues relating to uniform motorized trail signing standards and training for grant

sponsors; and the need to review the current trail maintenance program and its associated costs, including an assessment of future needs.

**Mr. Dinsmore made a motion, supported by Under-Sheriff Spencer, to accept the proposed 2004 Mission for the Off-Road Vehicle Trails Advisory Board. Motion for adoption unanimously carried.**

**Chairman Ranney** noted it is important for the DNR, the ORV Trails Advisory Board, user groups and individuals to work together, especially during the State's budget crisis. He added that everyone should keep in mind the social, economic and environmental impacts of ORV use. He encouraged the user groups to work together and asked them to provide their written comments, suggestions and recommendations for program improvement to the ORV Trails Advisory Board.

**Chairman Ranney** asked user groups to provide their web site addresses to the DNR and suggested links be established to the DNR website.

### **Public Appearance**

**John Stears, Vicksburg** is supportive of standardized motorized trail signing and believes license plates would improve compliance and law enforcement. He noted the need for safety training and supports the funding for instructors to be made available as soon as possible. He believes the trails need more maintenance and that the ATV and motorcycle groups need to work closer together. He supports multiple-use trails.

**Bill Gilbert, Michigan ATV Safety Association (MASA), Burton** said that he is an All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute (ASI) instructor and stated that there are over 50 certified ASI instructors in Michigan. He is supportive of a single standardized training curriculum and believes the DNR should accept the ASI program. He believes the DNR should fully enforce the safety certification provisions of the law.

**Thomas Dunn, Lansing Motorcycle Club and American Motorcycle Association D-14, Lansing** thanked **Mindy Koch** for coming to tonight's meeting. He noted advertisement of Hunter Safety Classes in the Lansing State Journal and Lansing Public School announcements. He believes the hunter safety program is very successful and feels that it would be a good model for the ORV safety training program.

**Brian Yinger, ABATE, Dearborn** distributed a letter from Lieutenant Creig Grey to Senator Basham regarding the future direction of the ORV safety training program. He is supportive of a standardized curriculum, but is concerned that the Department may not approve the curriculum developed by the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA). He wants the Department to approve the SVIA curriculum.

**Paul Mulder, Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association, Harrison** suggested the Department contract with Traffic Engineering Associates, Incorporated, as they review the motorized trail signing program. He believes that liability insurance is a large issue for grant sponsors and suggested the Department invite V&V Insurance to come in and talk to the Board. He expressed concerns with delays in filling the motorized trail technician positions.

**Richard Rondeau, Michigan All-Terrain Vehicle Association** said that effective dissemination of information is key to the success of the ORV safety education program. He believes the ASI program is not effectively reaching the general public. He distributed a program fact sheet on the Tread Lightly tread trainer program and noted it is coming to Michigan in

August. He encouraged public participation. He also noted an upcoming motorcycle show in Detroit on February 20.

**Jason Dinsmore, Michigan United Conservation Club, Lansing** noted the up-coming Outdoorama event at the Novi Expo Center, February 25-29.

### **Annual Election of Officers**

**Chairman Ranney** opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson.

**Mr. Moll nominated Mr. Ranney for Chairperson, supported by Ms. Dielman. Motion to close nominations and call for vote. Vote unanimously carried.**

**Chairman Ranney** opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

**Chairman Ranney nominated Mr. Moll for Vice Chair, supported by Under Sheriff Spencer. Motion to close nominations and call for vote. Vote unanimously carried.**

### **Next Meeting**

May 12, 2004, Lansing Holiday Inn-South, 6820 South Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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### **Public Present:**

Tom Gallagher, Michigan Recreation  
Vehicle Riders Association, St. Helen  
Pat Kinne, Great Lakes 4 Wheel Drive  
Association (GLFWDA), Midland  
Mike Kelly, GLFWDA, Sanford  
Thomas Dunn, American Motorcycle  
Association D-14, Lansing  
Hal Folk, Cycle Conservation Club (CCC),  
Leslie  
Jeff Van Camp, ATV Off-Road Club of  
Michigan, Mt. Morris  
Paul Mulder, GLFWDA, Harrison  
Ryan Reynolds, GLFWDA, Davison  
Jodi Moore, GLFWDA, Davison  
Bill Gilbert, Michigan ATV Safety  
Association (MASA), Burton  
Larry Wood, ATV Off-Road Club of  
Michigan, White Lake  
Brian Yinger, ABATE, Dearborn  
John Stears, Vicksburg

Virginia Hunt, LMC, Lansing  
James K. Hunt, Lansing Motorcycle  
Club (LMC), Lansing  
Ted Del Solar, Penton Owners  
John Long, CCC, Alma  
Peter Christenhusz, GLFWDA, Oak Park  
Keith Kodet, GLFWDA, Algonac  
Rick Rosebury, GLFWDA  
Lucas Gottles, GLFWDA  
Terry Grost, Southern Michigan  
Rockcrawlers  
Jason Gladki  
Steven Illeck  
Roy & Linda Josephson, SwampStompers  
Eric Gardener, GLFWDA, Grand Blanc  
Fred Wallace, GLFWDA, Grand Blanc  
Mark Hartman, Michigan Jeepers,  
East Lansing  
Bill Chapin, CCC, Rives Junction  
Mike Maurer, LMC, Williamston